

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427).

The applicant's present invention is a device for storing a keyboard (16) between a main unit (14) and a display unit (12) when not in use. A supporting member (20) having an engaging portion (20b) is utilized in an embodiment to support the keyboard (16) while not in use. Utilizing the present invention, it is possible to save space on a surface when the keyboard (16) is not in use.

Clancey et al. is a portable computer (12) with a tiltable keyboard (10). A latch member (76) is used to release a pawl member (80) which lifts the keyboard (10) through the action of a spring (84). The keyboard (10) remains attached and pivots about pivot pin (46).

It should be noted that the Examiner asserts on page 3, lines 1 and 2 of the Office Action that keyboard (10) of Clancey et al. is completely detachable from the space if pin (46) is removed. However, pin (46) is not removable. As stated in column 6, lines 60-65,

“As can be seen in FIG. 5A, a clockwise pivotal force on the pawl 80 tends to pivot the keyboard structure 10 in a clockwise direction about pivot pin 46, and a

counterclockwise pivotal force on the pawl 80 tends to pivot the keyboard structure 10 in a counterclockwise direction about the pivot pin 46.”

Therefore, the keyboard (10) simply pivots about pivot pin (46) and pivot pin (46) is not designed to be removed and the keyboard is not completely detachable from the space as recited in independent claims 1 and 7-9. Therefore the Examiner’s grounds of rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1 , 7-9 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“An electronic apparatus to which an input device is connected, comprising:
a main unit; a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and a retaining mechanism retaining at least one portion of the input device into a space which is formed by between the display unit and the main unit when the input device is not used, wherein the input device is completely detachable from the space.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-9 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-9 are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



George N. Stevens
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/nrp
Atty. Docket No. **000207**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE